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Dear Hugh:

Since receiving your telephone call and letter of August 13, I have looked closely into possible ways of supporting the University of Pennsylvania's project for excavations at Leptis Magna.

In the past three years the Department has made grants for some archaeological diggings abroad, using "excess" foreign currencies from a special appropriation of Public Law 480 funds (83rd Congress). As you know, this special appropriation was separate from the regular annual appropriations which the Department receives for carrying out its educational and cultural exchange programs.

I believe the University of Pennsylvania must be thinking of this past record of grants when it requests funds for Leptis Magna. Actually, none of the special P.L. 480 funds could ever have been spent in Libya because that country had not generated any foreign currency. In any event, this special appropriation has not been replenished during the last several years and the funds now are almost completely exhausted.

The Department still uses "excess" foreign currencies in its regular programs whenever possible. However, it must relinquish the dollar equivalent from its regular annual appropriations each time this is done.

Current appropriations are not sufficient for the whole range of activities authorized by P.L. 87-256, the Fulbright-Hays

The Honorable
Hugh Scott,
United States Senate.

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the Fulbright-Hays Act. Given limited resources, the Department has had to establish a scale of priorities. The highest rating has been given to educational and cultural interchange in terms of people. With the depletion of FY 1961 special appropriation funds, we find that we can no longer support archaeological excavations. Although we recognize the value of such projects, we have taken this decision in the knowledge that other institutions, such as the Smithsonian may be better able to provide assistance.

When Governor Leader discussed Leptis Magna with Governor Williams, it was suggested to Governor Leader that the Smithsonian might be the best channel through which to seek U.S. financial support.

Our position on this matter in no way suggests any lack of concern for the U.S. position in Libya, including that of the Wheelus Base. In fact, we are prepared to endorse in principle a University of Pennsylvania request to the Smithsonian, if the Museum authorities so wish. We would be happy to discuss this in the future with Dr. Rainey.

Sincerely,

/s/ George W. Ball

George W. Ball

S/S - RO
AUG 24 1964
A true copy of signed original

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

August 13, 1964

The Honorable
George W. Ball
Under Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear George:

Confirming our telephone conversation of today, I am enclosing a letter from Froelich Rainey, Director of The University Museum, University of Pennsylvania.

The proposal we discussed has very sound backing in Philadelphia, since former Governor George Leader is very much interested in it, as is Philip Klein, former President of Harcum Junior College and a very distinguished Philadelphian.

It was most encouraging to me that you are willing to explore this on an affirmative basis and I do very much hope that some way can be found to give this project an early beginning. To me, it seems to fit in with the general foreign assistance programing, and I will greatly appreciate your help.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

Hugh Scott
U. S. Senator

HS:bes
Enclosure
cc: Hon. George M. Leader
Philip Klein

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THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
THIRTY-THIRD AND SPRUCE STREETS
PHILADELPHIA 4, PENNSYLVANIA
CABLE ADDRESS "ANTIQUE"
TELEPHONE: EVERGREEN 6-7400
(AREA CODE 215)

July 31, 1964

Dear Senator Scott:

This concerns the business of restoring Leptis Magna, which we discussed last evening on the plane.

When Governor Leader and Philip Klein were in Libya during the winter to represent the United States at the opening of a Trade Fair, Mr. Jabreel, Under Secretary in the Ministry of National Economy in Libya, proposed to them that the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania take over the job of restoring Leptis Magna. All Americans in Libya, and particularly the Commander of Weilus Air Force Base, are concerned about Egyptian influence in Libya and the popular demand to eliminate our base there. The Leptis job is something we could do to strengthen the American position in Libya and to assist the Libyan Government both economically and politically. That is, the restoration of Leptis builds up a national historic tradition and is also the basis for greatly increased tourist trade.

Leader, Klein and I met with Williams, Assistant Secretary for African Affairs in the Department of State, yesterday, and received no support at all. There is a possibility that Federal funds for such a project might be made available eventually through the Smithsonian Institution, but this would probably be too late to have any effect upon the American position in Libya.

The cost is relatively small. I estimate about $200,000 per year, for five years. It seems to me that this amount could be provided

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administratively through the Department of State, if someone recognizes the advantage of this kind of operation, at the present moment, when we are trying to maintain our position in Libya. Probably Mr. Ball and Mr. Harriman could get this out of the limbo of indecision, if I am right about the possibility of doint it without Congressional action.

The University Museum now has some 15 archaeological expeditions around the world, several of them in the Near and Middle East, and I am willing to take on the job at Leptis simply because it is worthwhile for our country.

Very best wishes,

Froelich Rainey
Director

Senator Hugh Scott
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

P. S. I understand from Phil that you are a collector of Celadon ware, and I wonder if you have seen the pieces we have here in the Museum. If not, you should drop in sometime and have a look at them.

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